

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 15, 16, and 19 are amended. No new matter is added by these amendments. Claims 17 and 18 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §101. Applicant has amended claims 15-16 based on the Examiner's helpful comments. Claim 17 has been canceled and therefore the rejection is moot to claim 17. According, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,240,264 to Yajima et al. (hereinafter "Yajima") in view of JP 408258365A to Uchida. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, and similarly claims 15 and 19, call for an image scanning system with a calculation device that calculates an estimated length of required time to complete an image signal output after a scan instruction and an output device that outputs the estimated length of required time as calculation results obtained at the calculation device such that the estimated length of required time is displayed on an external monitor.

The Office Action admits that Yajima does not disclose the above-mentioned features of claims 1, 15 and 19. The Office Action, on page 4, asserts that Uchida does disclose a calculation device 4 and an output device 1 in Fig. 1. However, Uchida discloses in the abstract and in Figs. 1 and 2 that the image outputting device apparatus estimates the time necessary to output image data from the quantity and type of the image data stored in the memory. This is a different calculation from what is called for in claims 1, 15 and 19, which

calculates an estimated length of required time to complete an image signal output after a scan instruction.

Even if "a time necessary to output image data" is understood as "estimated length of required time," Uchida does not disclose or suggest that an estimated length of required time is to be displayed on a display monitor. Uchida discloses computers 7a and 7b in Figs. 1 and 2; however, Uchida focuses only on changing the output sequence of a plurality of sets of image data.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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